

Corrections personnel find many ways to support our troops



CO Dan Heckman and Health Information Manager Marcia Kauffman rallied employees at Bellamy Creek Correctional Facility to raise \$860 for those deployed by selling Support Our Troops tee shirts.

The outpouring of support for our troops by DOC personnel has been staggering. Listed here are many of the projects undertaken to sustain those called to military duty. As usual DOC employees have banded together to help out their fellow workers and their families as well as their communities. This is just a sampling of projects.

Bellamy Creek Correctional Facility (IBC)—Employees rallied to the aid of nine employees and employee family members who are serving in Iraq. Through the sale of tee shirts sporting the slogan Support Our Troops, CO Dan Heckman and HIM Marcia Kauffman were able to raise \$860 to purchase much needed items to ship to their troops. Among the

items to be sent are phone cards, wet wipes, chap stick and lotion, both with sun block.

FOA, Region I—Agent Debbie Warren of the Court Services Unit invited the staff at Court Services and Special Services to join with the Christian Services Committee in sponsoring a collection of personal items for shipment overseas in conjunction with PLAV Post six in Hamtramck.

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Support our troops *continued*

Greenfield District Probation—Staff is collecting non-perishable food items to send to the troops, along with a card signed by all staff signifying their support and appreciation.

Outer District Parole (PDO)—Staff is collecting funds for Nate Jenkins, who is stationed in Iraq with the U.S. Army. Jenkins was a former drug testing technician assigned to PDO.

Ojibway Correctional Facility (OCF)—The facility is participating in the Quality of Life program in which Red Cross approved items are accepted for donation and shipped to those serving.

Alger Maximum Correctional Facility (LMF)—Staff is collecting items for care packages for their three staff members involved in the war.

Baraga Maximum Correctional Facility (AMF)—The Employees' Club has initiated a supply drive to support the troops. Yellow ribbons were hand-made by an officer and his wife and donations for the ribbons are being collected to cover the cost of shipping the supplies.

Chippewa Correctional Facility (URF) and Straits

Correctional Facility (KTF)—Employees held a casual attire day in conjunction with a fundraiser with a local school. Another casual attire day will be held with proceeds to be sent to Chippewa/Straits facilities' staff members on active duty.



From left: Ionia Maximum staff Saudia Petersen, Nancy Klinessmith, Pat Nielsen, David Butler.



Ojibway Correctional Facility (OCF) and Camp Ottawa (OCF/COT) joined forces with the Red Cross to collect items for overseas. From left: Jill Bachelor, American Red Cross Director of Health and Safety Services; Tina Ojala, OCF Accounting Assistant (coordinated project at OCF/COT), and Connie Cvengros, OCF Business Office Secretary (coordinated project at OCF/COT).

Hiawatha Correctional Facility (HTF), Kinross Correctional Facility (KCF), Camp Koehler—Employees participated in a dress down day through the American Red Cross.

Newberry Correctional Facility (NCF)—Employees have been selling yellow ribbons and collecting money to purchase goods to send to their facility staff members who have been called to duty.

Ionia Maximum Correctional Facility (ICF)—The Employees' Club held a bake sale to raise \$600 for the three officers from their facility serving in Iraqi Freedom—Walter McConkey, Troy Huizing and Mark Levandowski. Employees are also writing letters and sending cards for the troops.

Support our troops *continued*



Ionia Maximum Employees' Club held a bake sale for the troops. From left: Pat Nielsen, President; Tom Tefft, Treasurer; Walter McConkey, son Coady; Tom Greenhoe, Vice President; Nancy Klinesmith, Secretary; Dave Butler, 1st Vice President. TSgt. Walter McConkey served in Kuwait at the Al Jaber Air Base and just returned home on May 3, 2003.

ant Jeanne Higgins. She is organizing the donation of items to be sent to friends or relatives of HVM staff who are serving overseas. Those serving are: the daughter of Sgt. Hernandez; the nephew of Nurse Goodson; a friend of Officer S. Knight and a friend of Officer J. Grundy.

Richared A. Handlon Correctional Facility (MTU)—Employees are writing letters and sending cards for the troops.

Boyer Road Correctional Facility (OTF) and Carson City Correctional Facility (DRF)—Staff is collecting items for care packages that will be mailed to the troops.

Lakeland Correctional Facility (LCF)—Employees are holding a blood drive.

Earnest C. Brooks Correctional Facility (LRF)—Staff is collecting items for care packages.

St. Louis Correctional Facility (SLF) and Mid-Michigan Correctional Facility (STF)—They are collecting for the family of Officer Goward who was killed while serving.

Pine River Correctional Facility (SPR)—Employees will be selling flag pins with the donations going to the Goward family.

Muskegon Correctional Facility (MCF)—The facility has a poster in the administration building honoring the employees and employees' families and friends who have been deployed.

Oaks Correctional Facility (ECF)—Employees have gathered and shipped non-perishable foods, playing cards, gum, hand lotion, suntan lotion, body powder, stationary, writing paper and puzzles. At Christmas they also had two large fruit baskets made up for the families of the two staff who were on active duty.

Cooper Street Correctional Facility (JCS)—Employees have adopted troops and their families. A box is kept in their Records Office where financial donations of \$1 a month and nonperishable items are being collected. A list of needed supplies is kept on a bulletin board displaying pictures and other tributes to the troops. There is a column in the Cooper Street *Chronicle* dedicated to co-workers and members of their families who have been called to active duty.

Ryan Correctional Facility (RRF)—Staff is collecting supplies and contributions towards the purchase of supplies for the troops.

Huron Valley Correctional Facility (HVM)—Their project for overseas servicepersons is being coordinated by Lieutenant

Support our troops *continued*

G. Robert Cotton Correctional Facility (JCF)—Employees are working for a company of Marines that are in country. They have collected a large amount of items that are on the Marines most wanted list from home.

Saginaw Parole Office/Buena Vista Corrections Center—Four large boxes of non-perishable items were collected by staff and organized by Sue Sauer for the troops. The boxes will be sent to Walter Schumacher, the son of a family friend, who is stationed in the middle east. Walter will distribute them to fellow troops in his unit.

Jackson County Probation Department—Along with Jackson County Courthouse employees, staff sent care packages to one of their employees, Probation Agent Greg Miller. Greg is a mechanic with the Air National Guard, Battle Creek Unit, stationed in Kuwait. Among the items sent which included food, personal and toiletry items, was a six foot American flag with the signatures and best wishes from probation and parole staff, Jackson County judges, area lawyers, and other court house staff.

Greg e-mailed staff stating that he was very touched by the thoughtfulness of fellow employees and friends, and that it was like “having a piece of home with him.” Greg has indicated that he is sharing his care packages with other Michigan troops in his area that haven’t received anything from home.

Central Office Field Operations Administration—The employee recognition committee is sponsoring a collection of goods/money for troops in Iraq. Cindy Peto is acting as the contact/drop-off person.

Region III, CFA Business Office makes candy their business



Jimmy Lack, Bruce Lack, Sue Rosenberger, Nancy Sharp

Some years ago, staff of the Region III, CFA Business Office ‘adopted’ the Jackson Inter-Faith Shelter as its local charity. The shelter provides short-term housing (30 days or less) for local homeless families, as well as meals for shelter residents and surrounding neighbors of low income. Volunteers recently completed their fifth successful Jackson Inter-Faith Easter Project, spearheaded by Nancy Sharp, accounting assistant.

With help from both current and retired employees, they received donations of \$200 in cash and another \$200 in candy, books and toys. Gathering at the home of Sue Rosenberger, accounting assistant, they assembled 30 well-supplied Easter baskets for children of the shelter. While the shelter does not house 30 children all at once, the donations allow for additional distributions to needy children in the surrounding neighborhood. They took additional candy to

residents of the Jackson AWARE Shelter, a protective shelter for victims of domestic violence.

In addition to the Easter baskets, Nancy and Don Sharp, former corrections food services director, Bruce Lack, DEQ training coordinator, his son Jimmie, Graham Allen, former corrections food services director and Clarice White, mother of Warden Harold White all helped to prepare and serve the Easter day meals. As they have done in the past, the Sharps provided the food for all three meals that day, and the cooking began at 4:30 a.m.

Wardens' meeting focuses on the future



Wardens from facilities across the state participated in the biannual Wardens' meeting held in Lansing last week. The sessions included an update on budget and legislative issues as well as the latest in training initiatives.

Director William S. Overton thanked the wardens for an outstanding job and outlined some of the new administration's philosophies. "The Governor wants leaders not administrators," said Overton. "Don't just tell people what to do. Get out there and lead them."

The director also encouraged DOC employees to offer suggestions for running the department as well as the state more efficiently.

"We want you and all employees to be part of the team running the Department of Corrections," said Director Overton.

Several new projects are in the works for the department. DOC will enhance its partnership with the Department of Transportation in cleaning up the roadways of Michigan. Additionally, parole and probation offices will begin a collaborative effort with Family Independence Agency and community health to see that children in their area get the help and resources they need.

In conjunction with the meeting, Bob Brown from the National Institute of Corrections examined the need for strategic planning and goal setting within the department.

Oakland warms up



The Oakland County Probation Department - Troy Office, donated 38 new blankets to the Red Cross for the homeless. Blankets and money were collected from staff by the Troy Probation Activities Committee. From left: Committee members Susan Poirier and Frank Vernarsky.

Saginaw cools off



Saginaw Correctional Facility staff raised \$1,680 for Special Olympics at the Polar Plunge held in Belleville, in late February. The one-day event, which drew representatives from law enforcement agencies throughout Michigan, raised a total of \$19,500. Participants included officer Sam Morgan, deputy warden Erick Balcarcel, teacher Dawn Little, teacher Tracey Raquepaw, Sgt. Cory Crugher; ARUS Greg Brady and Sgt. Richard Koch.

Kinross is named Corporate Neighbor



Warden Linda Metrish
—Photo courtesy
Soo Evening News

Kinross Correctional Facility (KCF) has been named the Chippewa County “Corporate Neighbor” by the United Way Volunteer Center. The Corporate Neighbor Award is given to the Chippewa County business or organization that most exemplifies community spirit and pride. KCF received this award and was honored at the 17th annual Volunteer Luncheon held at the Walker Cisler Center at Lake Superior State University on Monday, April 28th.

KCF is being honored for the good-works of staff members who have the community in mind both on and off their jobs. One KCF employee serves his community by volunteering on various boards for more than 450 hours per year. Other staff members serve on a variety of boards throughout the county and are members of local Elks, Lions, Volunteer Fire Departments, Church councils, leaders of Youth Groups, teach Sunday School classes and participate in Red Cross blood drives.

As with their personal lives, the staff members at KCF try to instill the same ethic of helping people in the prisoners they supervise by showing them how to reach out and improve the community. They show the therapeutic value of helping others while providing an outlet for prisoners to become productive members of society. Since October 1, 2002,

there have been 26 vocational/technical school projects completed, including painting and repairing vehicles for various agencies, refurbishing a car for the Sault Area High School and Career Center to be auctioned off at the Senior Graduation Party, building a wooden train set (four cars) for the Rudyard Township park, and providing various bedding plants, hanging baskets, house plants, seeds, native plants, trees and shrubs to agencies located throughout the county. A 200 lb. pumpkin was grown and auctioned off at the Chippewa County Fair in 2002 for over \$200, with the proceeds going to youth groups.

In addition to their time, KCF staff members donate money throughout the year for the facility’s Christmas project. The project provides Christmas gifts and food to families in need. Kinross Correctional Facility obtains names of several families and elderly citizens so that gifts of food and other items can be brought and distributed to these people. Several staff adds their personal touch, by making stockings for each of the children and by providing additional decorations for shut-ins.

“I am proud of the Kinross Correctional Facility staff. Their generosity and willingness to help others is evident everyday,” said Warden Linda Metrish. “It is my pleasure to accept this award on behalf of the entire Kinross staff.”

Warden Metrish also noted that Kinross Correctional Facility is celebrating their 25th anniversary this summer and expressed her wish to continue the partnership with the Chippewa County community.



May 17-26 is Michigan Week

Great Lakes, Great Traditions: Celebrating Michigan’s Heritage is the theme of this year’s Michigan Week celebration. It focuses on the citizens, cities, industries, institutions and experiences that have helped to shape our Great Lakes state. The Michigan Parade gets underway in downtown Lansing on Saturday, May 17, 11:00 a.m. The Michigan Department of Corrections Color Guard from DeMarse Training Academy will march in the parade. For more information and a complete listing of events, visit the History Arts and Libraries Web site at www.michigan.gov/hal.

Central Office acknowledges State employee recognition day



*Marsha Stansfield and
Director Overton*

Director William S. Overton and the Executive Policy Team turned out to welcome central office staff on Wednesday. Michigan State Industries created a sign highlighting the day. Events throughout the Department of Corrections and the state paid tribute to hard working civil servants.

Governor Granholm joined state employees from all departments for coffee breaks which were held at locations across the state.



Personnel staff from left: Diane Dean, Kim Thelen, Monique Dingeldey, Donna Colley, Leslie Smith and Joanne Bridgford greet Barry Wickman with donuts and juice.



Executive Policy Team members from left: Pat Caruso, Leo Lalonde, Jeff Baumann, Dick McKeon, Barry McLemore; (not pictured) Dennis Schrantz and Gary Manns joined Director Overton in greeting central office employees.



EPT members Jeff Baumann and Dick McKeon and Gary Manns greet Nancy Martin.



*Director Overton and
Lynn Downing*

If you would like to share your recognition day events, please send information with photos to madziagl@michigan.gov.

Employee appreciation for a job well done



Some of the staff of the Office of Audit, Internal Affairs and Litigation celebrated State Employee Recognition Day with a pizza and salad lunch. From Left: Jeff Baumann, Stan Harris, Ariel Helfenstein, Connie Henslee, Barb Slovisky, Kareem Bowen, Barb Hladki, Virgil Budd, Lorili Powell, Michelle Weber, Nick Myers, Dan Aldaco, Andrea Furst, Lisa Shedlock, Pam Baker, Wendy Hart, Brian Roller and Russ Byrne.



Retired RN Nancy Wells, Duane L. Waters Hospital, received her lifesaving award from Deputy Director Barry McLemore and Health Care Administrator Rich Russell. Nurse Wells, assisted by RUO Scott Portt, administered CPR to the victim of a single vehicle rollover accident.

Corrections Officer of the Year Banquet



Director William S. Overton congratulated Officer of the Year Matthew Morgan along with all the officers at the banquet honoring their selection. He expressed his great appreciation for the work the corrections officers do calling them the front line of our facilities and the heart of our department. He saluted their work as tremendous role models throughout their communities. Director Overton also acknowledged the vital role that family and friends play in the success of the officers calling their support and understanding “a source of strength for them.”



Corrections Officer of the Year, RUO Matthew Morgan, Baraga Correctional Facility, thanked his co-workers and his family for their support.